Installation of telephones in Mainpuri

†902. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question 536 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry has since been completed, if so, the result thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the follow up action taken/contemplated against persons found responsible for such incidents and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The investigation is in progress and is expected to be completed in three months time.

Loss to VSNL

903. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in The Times of India dated the 28th June, 2002 that VSNL is likely to suffer a loss of about $115 million if Worldcom files for bankruptcy; and

(b) what steps have been taken to retrieve the situation if the worse happens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) With the disinvestment of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and management control with the strategic partner, VSNL is a private company with Government shareholding reduced to 26%. The settlement with telecom carriers after the exchange of traffic accounts and their reconciliation takes significant amount of time. VSNL has been in constant touch with Worldcom officials at multiple levels and monitoring the situation. As per VSNL the Worldcom has started overserving certain payment schedule. The receivables from Worldcom on account of traffic upto March 31, 2002 are substantially cleared.

Poor performance of postal services

904. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal services in the country has not been found to be upto the mark and Government itself have expressed concern over its poor performance;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in their smooth running;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to compete with private courier service operators and to upgrade postal services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The postal services in the country have been generally satisfactory except the occasional complaints received from the members of public. Such complaints are immediately got enquired into. Besides resolving the grievance, bottlenecks if any found, are also removed.

(b) As per the results of the All India Live Mail Survey conducted in April 2001, 90.3% of unregistered mail and 88.1% of Registered Mails in the urban area was delivered within norms. Similarly, 89.1% and 90.4% of unregistered and registered mails respectively was delivered within norms in rural areas.